

Weekend of March 15

Fourth Sunday of Lent

Barona:

Mass: Tuesday through Friday. Rosary at 7:45 AM, Mass at 8:00 AM. @ Shrine

Saturday: 5:00 PM mass

Sunday: Sunday 8:00 AM. @ church

Confessions: By appointment only

Adoration: 1st Fri. of the month (8:00 AM).

Viejas:

Sunday: Sunday, 10:30 AM. @ Church

Confessions: By appointment only.

Sycuan:

Sunday: Sunday Mass 12:30 noon @ the Church

Confessions: By appointment only

PLEASE PRAY FOR....

Michele Nikas Beaman, John Nikas, Joyce Martinez, Dustin Lutze, Sam Halabo, Lisa Smallwood, Eleanor Davis Wallace, Margie Cruz, Mary Begay, Tonito Arcangel, Juliet Ray, Rose Ramos, Lilly Gautreaux, Jim Hughes, Laurie Boedicker, Aspen Sergin, Robert Laurel, Janet Vilareal, Paolo Espiritu, Tyre Nichols, Jeanette Garcia, Mike Banegas, Bennett Zerrudo, Carol Richardson, Jeff Ashii, Rosario and Paul Estepa, Haley Price, Mark Marquez, Lulu Cabinatan, Michael Martinez, Fr. Earl Henley, MSC, Rudy Duerro, Don Speer, Eileen Hansotte, DJ LaChappa, Michael McKnight, Lulu Cabinatan, Donald Lee, Gabriel Marquez, Sr., Joseph Kardian, Bear Cuero, Frances Banegas, Diane Robetkey, Ed Sloan, Flora Keldani and Gene Cortez, Paul Castello, Robert Kuhl, Joyce Rottenberg, Johnny Valencic, Kelly Bonde, Lucinda Thompson, Eva Walters, Spud Brown, Edna Gomez, Vera Tucker, Jack Ramirez, Rudy Duero, John Holsbo, Pat Wooley, Marvi Artugue, Yanni Aquino, Cynthia Dominguez, Dr. Gerry Directo and

Baby Selene Vasquez, Paul Darby, Edna Grijalva, Clifford LaChappa

Please check prayer list and add names as desired.

News From Religious Education

We would like to welcome and congratulate Edward Thomas Woods V to our parish family. He was baptized on 3/7/26. God bless you, Edward and family!

UPCOMING EVENTS

*Sunday Mass is livestreamed @ 8:00 AM, Barona.
Just go on Facebook under Herman Manuel*

MARCH

Friday, March 13 – Stations of the Cross,
5:00 PM at Barona

Saturday, March 14 & Sunday, March 15 – Lenten Collection. This collection supports Catholic Relief Services, the Church in Africa and the Church in Latin America. Envelopes will be provided. Please make checks to **St. Kateri Tekakwitha Parish.**

Tuesday, March 17 – St. Patrick's Day

APRIL

Wednesday, April 1 – Seder Mill Passover Meal,
5:00 PM at Viejas. Please contact Father or Sandy at church office to RSVP.



Thursday, April 2– Holy Thursday
6:30 PM All reservations invited– Sycuan

Friday, April 3 – Good Friday Service, Viejas
3:00 pm. One service for all reservations.

Saturday, April 4 - Holy Saturday - Barona
10:00 AM - rehearsal
8:00 PM – Easter Vigil

Sunday, April 5 – Easter Sunday
Regular Mass schedule

PASTOR'S CORNER

“Lord, That I May See”

Fourth Sunday of Lent

My dear brothers and sisters,

By the Fourth Sunday of Lent, the Church gives us a moment of quiet encouragement. Traditionally this Sunday is called Laetare Sunday—a word that means “*Rejoice*.” We are halfway through the Lenten journey. The desert path is still before us, but the light of Easter is already beginning to appear on the horizon. And the Scriptures today speak about light—the light that allows us to truly see.

In the first reading from 1 Samuel, the prophet Samuel is sent to choose a new king for Israel. When he sees Jesse’s strong and impressive sons, he assumes one of them must be God’s chosen one. But God tells him something very important: “Not as man sees does God see, because man sees the appearance, but the Lord looks into the heart.” Eventually Samuel anoints David, the youngest son—the one no one expected.

God sees differently. God looks beyond appearances, beyond status, beyond reputation. God sees the heart.

In the Gospel from John, Jesus encounters a man who has been blind since birth. The disciples immediately begin asking theological questions: “Who sinned, this man or his parents?” But Jesus shifts the conversation away from blame and toward healing. He gives the man sight. Yet something interesting happens in the story. The man who was blind gradually begins to see more and more clearly—not only physically, but spiritually. Meanwhile, the religious leaders who insist they can see clearly become increasingly blind to the truth standing right in front of them.

The Gospel gently asks each of us a question: Do we really see?

Physical blindness is easy to recognize. Spiritual blindness is harder. Sometimes we fail to see: the goodness in someone we have judged too quickly; the suffering of someone who hides their pain behind a smile; the quiet ways God is working in our lives.

Sometimes our hearts grow accustomed to darkness—resentment, discouragement, indifference—and we stop noticing the light around us.

That is why Lent exists. Lent is not meant to discourage us. It is meant to restore our sight.

In the second reading, St. Paul tells the early Christians: “You were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light.” Notice he doesn’t say we simply *receive* light. He says we become light. When we forgive someone who hurt us.

When we speak truth with kindness. When we show compassion to someone who feels forgotten. That is light breaking into the world.

In many Native traditions, elders speak about the moment just before sunrise. At first everything is dark. Shapes are hard to distinguish. The path is uncertain. But slowly the first light appears on the horizon. Then the hills begin to take shape. Then the trees. Then the path becomes visible. Nothing in the landscape has changed. But the light allows us to see it clearly. This is what Jesus does for us. He does not simply change our circumstances. He opens our eyes so we can see the world, others, and ourselves in a new way.

As we continue this Lenten journey together—here in Barona, Viejas, and Sycuan—this Gospel invites us to pray a very simple prayer:

“Lord, help me to see.”

To see the good in others. To see the blessings already present in my life.

To see the ways God is quietly guiding our community forward.

Because when Christ opens our eyes, something beautiful happens. We begin to see hope where we once saw only darkness.

My brothers and sisters, as we move closer to Easter, may this be our prayer:

“Lord Jesus, open the eyes of our hearts, so that we may
walk
as children of your light.”

Yours in the Divine Word,

Fr. Herman Manuel, SVD

